

News Release

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Cleanup Efforts Resume at the Arkema Inc. Site

This week Arkema Inc. resumes cleanup actions specifically focused on the uplands to prevent chemicals from getting into the Willamette River.

Cleanup activities resume this week at the Arkema Inc. site located at 6400 N.W. Front Avenue on the west bank of the Willamette River with a focus on addressing the upland areas. Chemical manufacturing from 1941 until 2001 contaminated the site with chemical.

The primary chemicals of concern are DDT and isomers, chlorobenzene, chloroform, chloride, hexavalent chromium, perchlorate and dibenzofurans. Over the years, a number of interim cleanup actions have been completed at the site.

Now, under DEQ oversight, Arkema will construct a new stormwater treatment system and groundwater containment and treatment system. Construction of the stormwater and groundwater systems will occur in three phases and is scheduled to last until March 2013. The final cleanup strategy for the site is still being developed.

Phase I includes decommissioning of the existing stormwater collection and river discharge system, constructing a new stormwater collection and treatment system consisting of stormwater channels, and a detention basin and filter system. The new stormwater system is an interim system which will be replaced/updated with the final site remedy. The new stormwater system will discharge to the Willamette River under an existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Phase II will include constructing a grout slurry wall to stop the discharge of chemicals in groundwater to the Willamette River. The wall will be constructed about 30 feet inland from the top of the riverbank. The wall will be about 1,800 feet long and extend from ground surface to bedrock 50 to 80 feet below ground.



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Phase III will include construction of temporary caps in the former DDT manufacturing area to limit chemical runoff to the stormwater system, and groundwater extraction wells and a groundwater treatment system to collect and remove chemicals in groundwater from behind the slurry wall.

Treated groundwater will discharge to the Willamette River under a separate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit which will be the subject of a future public notice.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also is planning to take action on contaminated sediments adjacent to the site as a follow on to the upland actions as part of the Portland Harbor Superfund site work.
